

## **News Release**

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

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## VA administers 1 million COVID-19 doses, publishes facility vaccination numbers

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reached a milestone in just a month and a half's time administering 1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Veterans and VA health care workers.

As of Feb. 2, VA has dispensed at least one dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine to more than 582,000 Veterans and has fully vaccinated over 44,000, totaling more than 626,000 doses. This is in addition to administering more than 401,000 doses to VA employees, and more than 1,200 vaccine doses to federal partners.

"In addition to administering 1 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, VA has begun publishing the number of Veterans who have received Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna vaccines at each facility across its enterprise," said Acting VA Secretary Dat Tran. "The number of doses administered to Veterans at each facility will be updated daily on the <a href="VA COVID-19 National Summary website">VA COVID-19 National Summary website</a>."

VA employees across the country are working diligently to vaccinate the department's health care personnel and the most vulnerable Veterans as quickly as possible. Making the data about vaccine doses administered to Veterans available publicly, VA is taking another step toward being as transparent as possible during the pandemic.

VA is currently providing vaccines at more than 215 sites nationally with plans to expand to additional sites as vaccine supplies increase. As with states distributing vaccines, VA is currently in the limited supply phase, anticipating an increase in weekly vaccine doses in March. Until VA receives an increase in vaccines, many facilities may temporarily run out of vaccines for short periods of time.

VA will continue to follow current <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance</u> and the <u>VA COVID-19 Vaccination</u> <u>Distribution Plan</u> until new CDC guidance is available. The distribution plan lays out VA's overarching intent but implementation of vaccination on a large scale requires agility and flexibility in order to meet the daily threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The federal government will continue to work with states and the private sector to effectively execute an aggressive vaccination strategy, focusing on the immediate actions necessary to convert vaccines into vaccinations.

VA is reaching out to Veterans who are eligible for vaccination. Veterans who would like additional information can visit the <u>VA COVID-19 vaccines</u> webpage, visit their <u>local facility's website</u> or contact their care team.